

Muslim American Among Leaders of Fight Against COVID19



Dr. Shah witnesses Harris County Judge Lina Hidalgo sign the Stay Home Work Safe' order covering nation's 3rd largest county including all of its 34 cities (largest being Houston).

Dr. Umair A. Shah, MD, MPH, Executive Director of Harris County Public Health (HCPH) in Houston, , is among the nation's leaders of the fight against COVID19



Dr. Shah, who served as the 2017-18 president of the National Association of City and County Health Officials (NACCHO), is nationally recognized for his leadership role in handling the emergency situation created by Katrina, is involved in the

fight and rendering an important role in public education that is so vital to controlling and fighting the pandemic. He is among the public-health experts who testified on Capitol Hill, asking Congress to invest hundreds of millions of additional dollars in the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Advancing Innovation Act, which is considered as the backbone of the country's ability to weather the coronavirus pandemic. He has told Congress "a precipitous decline in funding year after year" has crippled local health departments ability to handle a pandemic. "Cracks will show and forces will penetrate and overwhelm the offensive line that protects the public's health," he had predicted.

"We as a nation have not valued public health until we're in the midst of the crisis and we have to play catchup," Shah told POLITICO. "So when the dust settles, we have to have a serious conversation in this country about how we fund public health." In a podcast, he explained how the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act affects people's lives and the working of the social distancing guidelines.

In a webinar, he along with Dr. Sherif Zadran, president of the Texas Medical Board, discussed the action that Harris and State of Texas are taking in response to COVID19.

Among the many things he is doing to keep the public informed and aware as webinar, TV, radio and press interviews; and podcasts. Dr. Shah also volunteered to serve in the aftermath of the earthquake in Kashmir, and Haiti.